



COMMON VISION FOR GROWTH

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

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The Patrick Administration is committed to achieving the vision of a prosperous and healthy Commonwealth that provides a high quality of life today and for generations to come. Administration policies and goals for where we live and work, how we travel, how we build and re-use assets, and how we preserve the natural and cultural resources that we treasure and need are all complementary strands of a common strategy for achieving that vision.

Three of the Administration's cabinet-level secretariats—Housing and Economic Development, Transportation, and Energy and Environmental Affairs—have joined together to highlight their common strategy and their strong commitment to the Commonwealth's Sustainable Development Principles. All three Secretariats support "Planning Ahead for Growth," a strategy that calls for state, regional and municipal partners to: 1) identify Priority Areas where growth and preservation should occur, 2) create prompt and predictable permitting that allows projects to move forward, 3) invest public resources in those identified areas, and 4) market those assets to others.

This strategy recognizes that each region has unique characteristics and that effective partnerships on a regional and local level are essential to our continued success in furthering economic development, making smart transportation investments and achieving environmental preservation.

The Patrick Administration is confident that through consistent execution of the Planning Ahead for Growth Strategy, the Commonwealth will achieve our vision and reap the economic benefits of growth while maintaining and even improving the quality of life we enjoy. Below are some of the ways our Secretariats are pursuing complementary initiatives:

Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

The Planning Ahead for Growth strategy for economic and housing growth involves regional planning that starts at the local level to identify promising areas for growth, promoting as-of-right or expedited local zoning and permitting in these areas, maximizing public investment and leveraging private investment there, and marketing

development-ready sites. A particular focus of EOHED's Planning Ahead effort is promoting the goal of producing 10,000 multi-family homes a year, particularly near transit, city/town centers and employment centers, to provide homes that are more affordable for our workforce and better located. EOHED is also placing a priority on economic development in weak or distressed areas of the state, which often involves building on existing infrastructure and redevelopment.

Massachusetts Department of Transportation

MassDOT released its GreenDOT Implementation Plan in December and it embeds sustainability into all of its activities; from strategic planning, to project selection, design, and construction, to system operation. MassDOT is working with EOHED and EEA to make investments that promote job and housing growth near transit and in city/town centers and help achieve our "mode shift" goal of tripling walking, biking, and transit travel.

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

EEA's application of the Planning Ahead strategy is focused on conserving land and natural resources and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in order to help realize our 25% by 2020 limit. Actions include investing in habitat lands, working farms and forests, and urban parks as well as working with MassDOT and EOHED to realize the GHG benefits that result from locating homes and businesses in city/town centers and near transit through strategic infrastructure investments and tools and incentives for municipalities.

Working closely with municipalities and regions, the Administration is committed to preserving and enhancing Massachusetts as a great place to live, work and play by developing in the right places, having a strong transportation network where we need it, and protecting our environmental resources. Through coordinated initiatives across multiple state agencies we will plan and act together for our Commonwealth's future.

Sustainable Development Principles

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall care for the built and natural environment by promoting sustainable development through integrated energy and environment, housing and economic development, transportation and other policies, programs, investments, and regulations. The Commonwealth will encourage the coordination and cooperation of all agencies, invest public funds wisely in smart growth and equitable development, give priority to investments that will deliver good jobs and good wages, transit access, housing, and open space, in accordance with the following sustainable development principles.

Furthermore, the Commonwealth shall seek to advance these principles in partnership with regional and municipal governments, non-profit organizations, business, and other stakeholders.

1. Concentrate Development and Mix Uses

Support the revitalization of city and town centers and neighborhoods by promoting development that is compact, conserves land, protects historic resources, and integrates uses. Encourage remediation and reuse of existing sites, structures, and infrastructure rather than new construction in undeveloped areas. Create pedestrian friendly districts and neighborhoods that mix commercial, civic, cultural, educational, and recreational activities with open spaces and homes.

2. Advance Equity

Promote equitable sharing of the benefits and burdens of development. Provide technical and strategic support for inclusive community planning and decision making to ensure social, economic, and environmental justice. Ensure that the interests of future generations are not compromised by today's decisions.

3. Make Efficient Decisions

Make regulatory and permitting processes for development clear, predictable, coordinated, and timely in accordance with smart growth and environmental stewardship.

4. Protect Land and Ecosystems

Protect and restore environmentally sensitive lands, natural resources, agricultural lands, critical habitats, wetlands and water resources, and cultural and historic landscapes. Increase the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces and recreational opportunities.

5. Use Natural Resources Wisely

Construct and promote developments, buildings, and infrastructure that conserve natural resources by reducing waste and pollution through efficient use of land, energy, water, and materials.

6. Expand Housing Opportunities

Support the construction and rehabilitation of homes to meet the needs of people of all abilities, income levels, and household types. Build homes near jobs, transit, and where services are available.

Foster the development of housing, particularly multifamily and smaller single-family homes, in away that is compatible with a community's character and vision and with providing new housing choices for people of all means.

7. Provide Transportation Choice

Maintain and expand transportation options that maximize mobility, reduce congestion, conserve fuel and improve air quality. Prioritize rail, bus, boat, rapid and surface transit, shared-vehicle and shared-ride services, bicycling, and walking. Invest strategically in existing and new passenger and freight transportation infrastructure that supports sound economic development consistent with smart growth objectives.

8. Increase Job and Business Opportunities

Attract businesses and jobs to locations near housing, infrastructure, and transportation options. Promote economic development in industry clusters. Expand access to education, training, and entrepreneurial opportunities. Support the growth of local businesses, including

sustainable natural resource-based businesses, such as agriculture, forestry, clean energy technology, and fisheries.

9. Promote Clean Energy

Maximize energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities.

Support energy conservation strategies, local clean power generation, distributed generation technologies, and innovative industries.

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and consumption of fossil fuels.

10. Plan Regionally

Support the development and implementation of local and regional, state and interstate plans that have broad public support and are consistent with these principles. Foster development projects, land and water conservation, transportation and housing that have a regional or multi-community benefit. Consider the long-term costs and benefits to the Commonwealth.